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BRINGING AUTUMN INTO THE HOME LANDSCAPE

1. Foliage (continued)

Another colorful group, the Barberries, add gaiety both in foliage color and fruit. The Japanese Barberry (*B. thunbergi*), is already well known, but the erect growing Korean Barberry (*B. koreana*), is still a comparative stranger. Deep orange-yellow to red leaves arranged in whorls along its arching branches, blend harmoniously with pendent fruit clusters of green, yellow and eventually red. Where a bright yellow color note is needed for lightening semi-shaded areas, consider the Common Witchhazel, (*Hamamelis virginiana*), tall shrub of pleasing stature. After its golden-yellow foliage drops, woody-scented yellow flowers continue to furnish interest. A close relative, the Fothergilla, sometimes known by the common name, Springscent, even surpasses the Witchhazel in beauty. Varying in foliage color from clear gold to a blend of gold, scarlet and crimson, it is an asset to any fall landscape. Two species are available in the trade, *Fothergilla major*, the Large Fothergilla, an 8 foot shrub, and lower growing *Fothergilla gardeni*, whose height limit is 3 feet. In semi-wild areas the Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) can be used to excellent advantage for fall effects by reason of its undulating masses of purplish foliage enlivened by white fruit.

Late color (October-November) is always desirable, and to prolong the sequence such shrubs as the Mentor Barberry (*Berberis mentorensis*) (deep reddish purple); European Euonymus (*Euonymus europaea*) (reddish-purple with scarlet undertones); Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) (ruddy purple); Mountain Ninebark (*Physocarpus monogynus*) (burnt orange or terra cotta); Koreanspice Viburnum (*Viburnum carlesii*) (burnt orange to reddish purple); and the Wayfaring Tree Viburnum (*Viburnum lantana*) (reddish purple) may, if appropriate, be incorporated into the planting scheme.

The first signal of approaching autumn is usually given by the Woodbine or Virginia Creeper, (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), high-climbing vine, whose banner of vivid scarlet is flaunted from the tallest tree trunk. If the tree happens to be a conifer the effect is all the more spectacular.

"Leaflets three, let them be", is a warning well worth heeding, but who can deny the beauty of Poison Ivy foliage (*Rhus radicans*) after it has changed to a glorious blending of yellow-orange, red and purple. It will climb just as high as the Virginia Creeper and is perhaps less apt to cause trouble in this form than as a less easily detected ground cover. The pure yellow of American Bittersweet foliage (*Celastrus scandens*) is also available for autumn accents, and after the foliage has dropped the bittersweet colored capsules enclosing orange-coated seeds remain showy until dulled by hard freezes. The foliage of Sweet Autumn Clematis (*Clematis paniculata*), another sprawling vine, retains its greenness until late, affording contrasting interest. Its multitudes of small, starry-white flowers of enchanting fragrance appear in September and are followed by decorative silvery seed heads of plummy appearance.

There are a number of herbaceous perennials with good fall foliage color, too, plants which if carefully placed in beds in the foreground of shrubbery borders or elsewhere in the garden will provide considerable supplementary interest. A few of the showiest include the Balloon flowers (*Platycodons*), whose good sized, thick leaves turn yellow, brown and purple, the Plantainlilies (*Hostas*), bold-textured plants colored clear yellow or old gold, Meadow Sundrops (*Oenothera pratensis*), showy, yellow flowering perennial with bright fall foliage of orange-scarlet, and the similarly colored, narrow-leaved Cushion Euphorbia (*Euphorbia polychroma*.)

In the wild garden or other natural areas the dainty foliage of the Early Meadowrue (*Thalictrum dioecum*) will introduce a clear yellow effect that is light and airy in appearance, the Bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*), a bolder textured note in the form of subtly blended hues of gold and brown, and the two gracefully arching-stemmed Solomons Seals (*Polygonatum biflorum* and *P. canaliculatum*) an almost classic beauty of line. The leaves of both species range from clear yellow to tawny gold. The chief difference between the two is their height, the first one being shorter. Another native, spectacular both in foliage and fruit is the American Spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*), widely-branched, compound-leaved inhabitant of rich woods and woodland margins. Of variable fall coloring, its foliage may turn to golden-yellow, red or purple or often times to all three. Ferns belong with the indispensables in the woodland garden, and whether they remain green like the Christmas and Evergreen Wood Ferns (*Polystichum acrostichoides*, *Dryopteris marginalis*), assume the pure yellow tones of the Hayscented Fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*), change to tan and gold like the Cinnamon (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) and Royal Ferns (*Osmunda regalis*), or take on the brownish hues of such ferns as the Ostrich (*Pteritis pennsylvanica*), and Toothed Wood Fern (*Dryopteris spinulosa*), they greatly enhance their surroundings.

Whether familiar with prairie plants or not, anyone sensitive to beauty will recognize in some of them, the native grasses in particular, autumn interest well worth bringing into the home landscape. The Big Bluestem or "Turkeyfoot", (*Andropogon gerardi*) is one, a tall (3 to 8 ft.), deep rooted grass whose three to five-parted, dusty-rose colored seed heads resemble a turkey's foot. Following frost the stems and leaves of the Big

Bluestem take on the lovely pinkish cast to which the plant owes so much of its charm. This coloring persists through the winter. The stems of the lower growing (to 3 ft.) Little Bluestem, Bunchgrass or Prairie Beardgrass (*Andropogon scoparius*), are even pinker, color earlier and have just as long a season of effectiveness. Although perhaps not as spectacular in color, the Indian or Wood Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), has attractive golden, plume-like seed heads on stems 4 to 8 feet tall. The foliage is soft tan. On dry, sandy hills occurs another ornamental grass useful for mass effects. This is the Fall Witch-Grass (*Leptoloma cognatum*), a low, brittle-stemmed species of conspicuous pink coloring. It attains full color at the same time goldenrod bloom is at its height.

2. Fruit

Beginning with the early ripening crabapples and hawthorns, the buckeyes and the chestnuts, a continuous parade of fruiting trees and shrubs affords an effective means of supplementing foliage interest in the autumn landscape.

An extended period of fruit effectiveness is one of the features of the Crabapple clan, and because of this fact alone, they figure more prominently in autumnal compositions than most other groups. *Malus* Dolgo previews the display by ripening its bright red, oval-shaped apples as early as August, but it is not until September and October that the major display occurs. For showy fruit effects we especially like that old stand-by, the Japanese Flowering Crab (*Malus floribunda*), with small red apples, the Midget Crab (*M. micromalus*), whose flat, yellow fruit resembles the Lady Apples so popular at Christmas-time, the purplish-red fruited Purple Crab (*M. purpurea*), and its widely planted variety, 'Eleyi', the Tree Toringo Crab (*M. sieboldi arborescens*), with long lasting, small, yellow and red fruit, the Cutleaf Crab (*M. toringoides*), whose pear-shaped fruit is red on the sunny side, yellow on the shaded, and the low growing, small, red-fruited Sargent Crab (*M. sargentii*). Later interest is furnished by the Jack Crabapple (*M. baccata jacki*), whose large red apples cling until spring, 'Red Jade', a new weeping crab with small, long persistent red fruit, and the Redbud Crabapple (*M. zumi calocarpa*), picturesque tree whose abundant, pea-sized fruit of yellow or red lasts the winter through.

Hawthorn fruit is quite as ornamental in its own way, and whether one plants the large, bright red, early ripening Redhaw (*Crataegus mollis*), the later, wine-red fruited Cockspur Thorn (*C. crus-galli*) or the longer persisting Washington and Lavalley Hawthorns (*C. phaenopyrum* and *C. lavalleyi*), a bright picture is assured. The Washington Thorn is noted for its small, Chinese-red fruit borne in such profuse clusters that enough bird food to last the winter through is provided, the Lavalley Thorn for its larger, long lasting orange or brick-red thornapples.

Among other trees represented in the autumn fruit repertoire may be mentioned the American Hornbeam or Blue Beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*), whose colorful, orange-red, leaf-like, seed bearing bracts are arranged in pendulous clusters, the American and Chinese Chestnuts (*Castanea den-*

tata and *C. mollissima*), with their sharp, spiny seed coats of light green, the widely distributed Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), prolific fruiter, bearing immense clusters of winged seeds, at first light green, later turning reddish and brown, the Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), whose sweet flavored, orange fruit is not only attractive to look at but pleasant tasting as well, and the ordinary Honey Locust, (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), with its twisted, shiny brown seed pods decorating the branches through November. The light green, orange-sized fruit of the Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera*) affords fall interest, too, especially if it remains on the branches until after the leaves have turned yellow. Fall interest of a more subtle nature characterizes the fruit of the Silverbell (*Halesia carolina*), elongated, oval, light brown sacs with four lengthwise wings. The clustered fruit of the Cork Trees (*Phellodendron*) is also unusual and even more showy. Looking like bunches of green grapes set among the bold, compound, yellow-toned foliage, it retains its attractiveness even after the leaves have dropped and the fruit color changed to black. The Amur and Chinese Cork Trees (*P. amurense* and *P. chinense*) are especially recommended. In areas where growing conditions are to their liking and where borers are not a problem, the various Mountain Ash, (*Sorbus*) belong on any list of showy fruited trees. The bright red American Mountain Ash (*Sorbus americana*) and the taller, orange fruited European Mountain Ash or Rowan (*S. aucuparia*) are two of the most familiar ones.

For the best in berried shrubs we look to six or eight genera whose beauty and fruitfulness make them the mainstay of any planting. One of these is *Aronia*, best known by the Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), tall, red-fruited shrub with handsomely colored foliage, and its lower growing relative, the lustrous-leaved Glossy Black Chokeberry. (*A. melanocarpa elata*), distinguished by copious quantities of shiny black fruit. More varied color is provided by the Dogwoods, (*Cornus*), among which will be found such desirable shrubs as the white berried Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), turquoise-blue fruited Silky Dogwood (*C. amomum*), and the late ripening Cornelian and Japanese Cornelian Cherry Dogwoods (*C. mas* and *C. officinalis*), both of which have flavorful, elongated red fruit. The clustered red fruit of Flowering Dogwood (*C. florida*), is still brighter, but its attraction to birds much too frequently cuts short its display. Cotoneaster is another indispensable genus, one including both red and black fruited forms of different sizes and statures. The red berried ones are most desirable, the low, mounded Early and Cranberry Cotoneasters (*C. adpressa praecox* and *C. apiculata*), with cranberry-sized fruit of bright scarlet, the arching-branched, Slender Cotoneaster (*C. divaricata*), of medium height and with deeper red, oval fruits, and the tall, fountain-like Manyflower Cotoneaster (*C. multiflora calocarpa*), whose arching branches support an abundance of colorful red fruit. Although more rugged, the black fruited species such as "*acutifolia*" and "*lucida*", somehow lack the distinction of the others. The foliage value of the Euonymus has already been praised, and from a fruiting standpoint they merit equal commendation. Four to five, or occasionally two to three-celled bright colored capsules, usually lobed and sometimes winged, cover

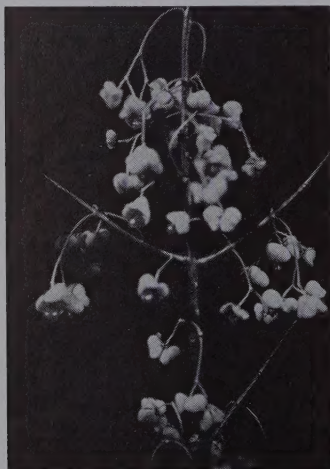
the one to two seeds enclosed in fleshy, usually orange arils. Their contrasting coloring accounts for the showiness of the genus. Any of the following species may be depended upon to enrich the autumn picture: The Winterberry Euonymus (*Euonymus bungeana*), with light pink capsules, scarlet arils; the Aldenham Spindle Tree (*E. europaea aldenhamensis*), with rose-pink capsules, orange arils; the Crimsonfruit European Euonymus (*E. europaea atrorubens*), whose deep scarlet capsules (arils orange) are the darkest of them all; the Wahoo or Burning Bush (*E. atropurpurea*), with crimson fruit and scarlet arils and the thick branched, semi-arborescent Yeddo Euonymus (*E. yedoensis*) from Japan and Korea, a heavily fruiting species whose large, deeply lobed capsules are rose-pink with orange arils. Top notch in every respect are the Viburnums, a genus of shrubby plants renowned both for fall foliage and fruit. Almost every color is represented in their mature berries—yellow in the Yellowfruit Sargent Cranberrybush Viburnum (*V. sargentii flavum*) and the Yellowfruit European Cranberrybush Viburnum, (*V. opulus xanthocarpum*); white, turning blue, in the oval fruit of the Southern Blackhaw Viburnum (*V. rufidulum*); blue in the shade tolerant Arrowwood Viburnum (*V. dentatum*); blue-black in the Blackhaw Viburnum (*V. prunifolium*); black in the Nannyberry (*V. lentago*); and red in the translucent fruit of the American Cranberry-bush Viburnum (*V. trilobum*) and in the bright red, oval berries of the Linden Viburnum (*V. dilatatum*). Multicolored fruit is typical of several desirable species such as the Withe-rod Viburnum (*V. cassinoides*), whose berries change from green to pink to red to black; and the late summer ripening Wayfaring Tree and Siebold Viburnums (*V. lantana* and *V. sieboldi*), bushes whose fruit is interesting at any stage of development.

For late fruit effects there are a number of miscellaneous shrubs quite as important as those just mentioned. One, the Autumn Elaeagnus (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), is noteworthy for its thickly clustered, brown-dotted, Chinese-red berries, set midst silvery leaves; another is the Winterberry, (*Ilex verticillata*), a deciduous holly planted for its persistent bright scarlet fruit lasting as long as the birds leave it alone. Also red are the large, translucent berries of the Late Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii podocarpa*), arranged in pairs along the branches. Its dark foliage provides a long lasting background. We look to the Privets for blue-black fruit, the European species (*Ligustrum vulgare*) for its clustered, lustrous black berries effective in fall and winter, and the Regels Border Pivet, (*L. obtusifolium regelianum*) for its smaller fruit of powder blue. Of the various Buckthorns in cultivation, a favorite here is the Dahurian Buckthorn (*Rhamnus davurica*), an irregularly branched, bold leaved shrub bearing generous quantities of glossy black fruit. While attractive and long lasting, birds ignore it until no other food is available. Everyone knows or has seen the white-fruited Snowberry (*Symphoricarpus albus*), shade tolerant shrub whose one-half inch fruit ripens in September and lasts until browned by hard freezes, and the low growing native Indian Currant or Coralberry (*S. orbiculatus*). The purplish-red berries of the latter, thickly clustered along its stems, insure long lasting fall and winter interest. And, because of its rather aggressive, suckering habit, its value as a ground

cover for rough banks and slopes is obvious. A word should be said for the Japanese Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), too, sprawling, impenetrable bush noted for its large, pyramidal clusters of small, Chinese red fruit. It is not a plant for small properties, however.

Fruiting vines also have a place in the autumn picture, affording an effective means of adding interest to walls, fences, trellises and pergolas. Best known perhaps is the Common Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), vigorous climber bearing terminal panicles of yellow-coated, orange-red berries. An even more prolific bearer is the Oriental Bittersweet, (*C. obiculata*) with equally showy fruit in axillary clusters. As with all bittersweets, both staminate and pistillate plants are essential to fruit production. The very name Porcelain Ampelopsis (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) suggests something attractive, and rightly so, for this dainty leaved vine is particularly handsome in fruit. Its clustered, quarter-inch, multicolored berries show a color sequence ranging from green to pale lilac to yellow to bright blue. Beauty of a different type is evident in the silvery, plumy seed heads of several of the Clematis, the fragrant, September flowering Sweet Autumn Clematis (*C. paniculata*), Golden Clematis (*C. tangutica*), and Virgins Bower (*C. virginiana*). The Bigleaf Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei vegeta*), with handsome rounded evergreen foliage and bitter-sweet-like fruit is another splendid vine, and the best in its class for both summer and winter effects.

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Winterberry Euonymus, *Euonymus bungeana* Maxim., attractively fruited species with light pink capsules and scarlet arils.

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